

FCC MAIL SECTION

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The Secretary

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR 25 1991

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Gentlemen:

I am writing to support RM-7681, a proposal to change the applicable portions of Part 97 to allow automatic control of Amateur Radio packet stations in specific sub-bands below 50 Mhz.

Gentlemen, we have had more than enough time to experiment. We have shown the viability of HF packet to facilitate longer range message handling. Now is the time to remove the prohibitions on unattended operation of packet below 50 Mhz.

Many areas of the country are experiencing the same problems we in Michigan have, namely few amateurs in vast more remote regions such as our Upper Peninsula. HF packet links on 80 and 40 meters would be ideal to add these less densely populated areas to the existing VHF networks. We have attempted on several occasions to obtain STAs from the ARRL but have been turned away out of hand because we wanted to use 80 and 40 meters instead of the League favored 20 and 30 meters. Please also be aware that the Novice and Technician grade license holders are totally ignored in the program by the ARRL because they will not issue STAs on the 10 meter novice band. HF packet can be a valuable tool for emergency communications. Now is the time to put to an end the 'Good Ol' Boys Club' that the present League run STA operation has become.

One of the expressed concerns in the past has been the frequency use of an automated packet system. A few points need to be reviewed. The AX25 protocol is a friendly protocol in that it will not transmit as long as a signal is being received. The frequency tolerance for proper transmission is very narrow. Two stations only 50 hertz off base frequency from one another can not communicate. There would be no AX25 connect established and no exchange of information. At most the calling station would stop trying to connect after the selected number of retries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George W. Schemm

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